



Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors

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COUNTY BOARD BUDGET BLAST: OCTOBER 10, 2013

The Milwaukee County Board Committee on Finance, Personnel and Audit today heard testimony from the County Department of Transportation. That included reports about the Airports, Highway Maintenance and the Milwaukee County Transit System.

The majority of the discussion centered on the County's bus and paratransit services. The Director of the Milwaukee County Transit/Paratransit System (MCTS) said the proposed budget includes no fare increases but provides additional service. There was expressed concern increased service will only impact busy areas and busy times while other parts of the community are under-served but the transit system.

In 2014 buses will also have new fare boxes that will accept fare cards instead of tickets. The fare "smart" cards will be used like a debit card to promote efficiency.

The County Executive's proposal to reduce paratransit fares from \$4 to \$3 included an inadvertent budgeting error that resulted in a \$1.5 million "hole" in the proposed budget. Several suggestions have been made by the Administration to address the budget shortfall, but policymakers have not yet decided on a remedy. The actual cost per paratransit ride is \$28.80 for van service and \$17.25 for taxi service.

Friday the Committee will hear from mostly Parks, Recreation and Cultural functional area groups including the Milwaukee County Parks Department. The Recommended Budget for Parks includes shutting down the County's two indoor pools and the proposed sale of the O'Donnell Park Parking Garage to Northwestern Mutual Life (NML).

- To view the County Board's budget overview, please click [here](#).
- To view the schedule of budget meetings, see the agendas and watch a live online feed, please click [here](#).
- The County Board of Supervisors will hold its annual public hearing on the 2014 Recommended Budget on November 4, 2013, at 4PM at the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center. For more information, please click [here](#).

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